

Extract from Percy Harrison's letter February 8th 1909

"I am sorry to say that I find I cannot arrange November for Kathleen Parlow, so must ask you to please stick to the Third tour for her.

But - and it is a very important "but" - you have not yet specifically endorsed and confirmed the condition as to her coming round the Tour entirely by herself, unaccompanied by either her Mother or any other person whatsoever, this, as I told you from the first, being a vital condition, i.e. of course not merely as regards Miss Kathleen Parlow but, and as I may just as well state clearly at once - since although these will be our first business transactions together, I am hoping that they will be by no means our last - as applying to any and every young Artiste whom I may arrange with through yourself.

I may perhaps add that it is a rule of business I have kept now for a good many years, and is quite well known and accepted by all the principal agents in London, to either or any of whom I could refer you, although of course it would be a rather delicate matter for you yourself to ~~consult~~ with them, or - and which would perhaps be better I can when I get down to Town again easily hunt up some letters from young Artistes and their Mothers sent to me after the Tour, saying how glad they have been that I not only made the rule but that I stood to it, viz, in the great advantage to the young Artiste herself resulting in having to depend more upon herself, thus gaining on the one hand a most valuable spirit of self reliance, and on the other hand losing the feeling of self-conscious shyness which is always to be deprecated.

On the other hand however I may add ~~that~~ at once that

as I think it only right ~~and~~ reasonable to do, I always make it a strict rule with myself that there shall always be at least two ladies in the Party, and I generally arrange for there to be three or four.

I understand of course the responsibility that I thus have to undertake, viz, that in addition to filling the position of Concert Director (which always developes into "Daddy" after the first day or two) I have also to act ^{look} as doctor and also as confidant generally, all of which I am prepared to undertake, and always do undertake, in order to secure the great advantage - which it ~~is~~ undoubtedly is all round - for the Party to consist of themselves only instead of including also a lot of relations and friends, to the chief benefit as I have said of the Artistes themselves.

Please do not think that I am making an unnecessary fuss about the matter, but as a result of my concert experience and work I have made it a vital condition, and I will ask you therefore to kindly let me have your written acceptance of it on behalf of Miss Parlow, or to express to her Mother and herself my great regret that I shall not be able to have the pleasure of including her upon one of my tours."

I have been thinking of you very much lately
and wondering how you are getting on.
I hope you are well and happy.
I have been very busy lately
but I have managed to find some time
to write you a few lines.
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